

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Field, William Bradhurst Osgood
[Lenox, MA]

1913-1934

Field, Wm. B. O.

1920-1921

August 2nd, 1913.

Mr. William B. Osgood Field,
Highlawn House,
Lenox, Mass.

My dear Mr. Field:-

As I expected on last Thursday afternoon, a quorum of the Council of The American Numismatic Society did not appear, nor did a majority of the Publication Committee. However, Mr. Newell, Mr. Pelden and myself were present as members of the Council, and also Mr. Wood, the Curator of the Society.

As regards the size of the annual paper of the Journal, which we hope to have ready for delivery about the first of the year, after very careful consideration it was decided that it would be best to continue the book in its present size. We brought out for inspection and comparison the publications of all the leading numismatic societies abroad, and found that there was no standard size. The Moscow and Vienna publications are even larger paper than ours. The British is just a trifle smaller; the French and Belgian smaller still; and the Royal too small to really produce a satisfactory plate. The fact that the best modern numismatic books are now being printed on large paper in order to get the best results as to illustrations, and that there is no standard size for publications of this character, would lead us to continue our publication as it has been in the past. Unquestionably, our publication as a quarterly pamphlet was decidedly awkward in size, but now that it is to be produced as an annual of, we hope, considerable size, it will be treated more as a book. After comparison with the foreign publications, it was the unanimous opinion of those of us who were present that our book was well balanced as to size, and not at all out of proportion. I am sending you herewith three samples of paper, A, B and C, which seem to be the most desirable from a larger selection sent us by Mr. Marvin, of Boston, who will produce the book, provided there is no objection. Personally, I am in favor of using the paper, the sample of which is marked "A," as being a happy medium between the other two samples marked "B" and "C". The paper formerly used in the Journal has been unsatisfactory as it has been of a rough surface character, and does not take a good impression. As we desired to illustrate some of the articles in the text, a smooth surface paper will be necessary, and it is Mr. Wood's

opinion that a coated or caméod paper would not answer our purposes as well as any of the three samples submitted, which are of the calendered, or non-coated, type.

As regards the type on the accompanying samples of paper, I consider that the new twelve point modern, as shown on the outside front page, is a great improvement on anything we have had as yet. To my mind it shows up well and makes a page of more dignity and character than anything we have produced as yet in this particular line. On the first inner page you will find the twelve point old style, which was formally used, and on the second inner page the eleven point modern, which we would use in connection with the twelve point modern. The last page is the eleven point old style, which was used formally.

Any suggestion or criticism, which you may have to make, will be very welcome. While I may be absent from the city, Mr. Wood will be at the Society building almost continuously, and I will ask you to return the enclosed samples to him with any remarks or criticism, which you may have to make, or if you prefer to communicate with me personally my address for the next month will be 5 Castle Hill Avenue, Great Farrington, Mass. In any event, I will ask you to return the samples to Mr. Wood at your earliest convenience.

If possible, we will endeavor to have the printer furnish the special type necessary to properly print Mr. Frey's article. If we are unsuccessful in this, we will have it made ourselves, and the type will then be our own property.

It is our intention to improve the title page of the book producing a better balance and general appearance. This, I think, may be accomplished by a careful selection of type, and the lowering of the seal on the page to conform to the general character of the title pages of all the foreign publications of like character. It is also the intention of the Chairman of the Committee, with the approval of the other members, to bind the annual volume in a heavy, durable paper cover, the same, or similar, in character to the cover used on the catalogue of our Medallion Exhibition, and to have something less archaic and a trifle more attractive on the outside dress of the book. Two, at least, of the articles will be illustrated by plates. The one by Miss Agnes Baldwin on the Electrum Coinage of Lampsacus will be illustrated by plates, which she is preparing abroad, and the Roty article by Dr. Kunz, and an article furnished by Seltman will be illustrated by plates, which we will have prepared here. Mr. Frey would prefer to have the illustrations for his article appear in the text, which, I think, can be satisfactorily done on the type of paper we have been thinking of selecting. So much for the annual publication.

Regarding the other matters, which we discussed on the train, I can only say that I have discussed them with Mr. Pelden, and trust they will receive his attention.

Owing to various unavoidable mishaps, the Morgan medal is still in the throes of production, and we trust in good time it may reach the public.

Mr. Pelden has disappeared from the scene on a short vacation, and will doubt

No. 3.

less give these matters his earnest attention on his return.

Very truly yours,

Chairman of Publication Committee.

July 19, 1915.

Mr. W. B. Osgood Field,
High Lawn House,
Lenox, Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:-

Your letter just at hand. The ideal requisites of a Librarian for this Society are, to my mind, as follows:

A general knowledge of numismatics so that the subject is not a stranger to him.

A working knowledge of library work. This however does not need to be extensive.

A ground work of order and method.

A knowledge of French and German at least and a fair knowledge of Latin.

The ability to write good English with a certain amount of style.

Any person that we should have for the library should be an important part of the working staff of the organization, capable of writing, editing and criticising numismatic subjects, because if we are to be considered a scientific Society in our own field of endeavor, our staff of experts should be larger than they now are.

Of course it would be extremely hard to find any one that would fulfil all of these requirements, nevertheless the point should be borne in mind in making a selection.

The question of pay would be a factor. I very much doubt if any one fulfilling all or a large part of these requisites could be obtained for the price we have paid, for I understand an assistant librarian starts in for about the price paid with the prospects of several raises as he becomes more familiar with his duties. With our position the chances of a raise are very small and but few people would take the job with any idea of permanency. Any person that we could get for the price we had been paying or less, would be to my mind, a makeshift or a very lucky strike.

Although I have been on the look out for some one for the position, I have thought of no one. The work can go along satisfactorily for a while without any regular librarian as Mr. Savage has left in a comprehensible form, what has been done, and what there is to do. During the last month he has broken in Miss Holding to the routine work of the department and the work can go automatically on for some time.

As for Mr. de Lagerberg's qualifications I would

suggest that we first look around as I think that we could do better, as I don't think that Mr de Lagerberg would fulfil enough of the requirements that we should require.

Very sincerely yours,

HIGH LAWN HOUSE
LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

July 23rd, 1915.

Dear Mr. Wood:

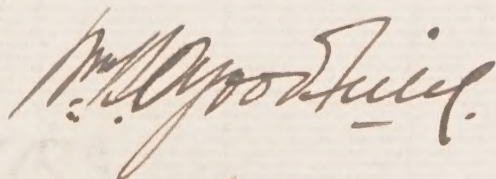
Keep your eyes open for a possible Librarian and let me know if you can suggest anyone.

I received your letter and agree with you in every detail.

It seems to me that the Librarian, once the library is in order, should be able to give you a great deal of assistance and act in the capacity of an assistant, so that you would be more free to follow your lines of work.

I think we should install our librarian by the first of October.

Yours very sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

July 26. 1915.

Mr. W. B. Osgood Field

High Lawn House,

Lenox, Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:-

Dr. Stevenson of the Hispanic Society has just given me the name of Sydney P. Noe, Sage Library, New Brunswick, N. J. Dr. Stevenson recommends him very highly. He is now engaged as assistant librarian of the above mentioned Library.

He is considered a good worker and a conscientious student. He is somewhat familiar with numismatics, how much I don't know. Some years ago I understand he catalogued and put in shape what coins there were on Rutgers and while doing so made use of our library. Dr. Stevenson says he doesn't know that we can get him. Certainly not at the price we have been paying for a librarian.

So far this is the only person I have heard of.

I have not communicated with Mr. Noe.

Very truly yours,

Sept. 20, 1915.

Mr. W. B. Osgood Field
High Lawn House,
Lenox,
Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:-

Dr. Stevenson of the Hispanic Society has just brought in Mr. Sidney P. Noe of whom I wrote you about in my letter of July 26th. We had a long talk with him and the following is the summary together with my opinions.

He is a young man about thirty, unmarried, and from what Dr. Stevenson says about him, and from what I have gleaned from to-days conversation, he comes much nearer filling all of the requirements for a Librarian that I stated in my letter of July 19th, than I thought possible. He has a fair knowledge of Numismatics and a decided liking for the subject. He has had five years of Library work under a most capable Librarian and scholar, Dr. Van Dyke at the Sage Library, New Brunswick, N. J. His desire for leaving is the fact that he can go no further there and Dr. Van Dyke can teach him no more. In fact Dr. Van Dyke thinks now is the time to try to better himself. He has a working knowledge of French and German. He has done research work and some writing as well as a good deal of proof reading and editing and Dr. Stevenson says he is a hard worker. Noe himself seemed to think he would like the work and seems to have a desire to take up numismatics and expressed a wish that that he could extend his field beyond the routine work of the library and do writing of research work.

The question of pay undoubtedly will be an important factor. He is now living in New Brunswick at the College so that his boarding rooms are at the minimum cost, and I should judge from what he says that his salary, including what he is getting from the College amounts to about 1200, and he would not make a change under that figure. He would like to get 1500. We could get him for something between twelve hundred and fifteen hundred. If at the lower figure I think he would come only on the condition that he would get something better if he made good. In fact his idea is to try to fill in so creditably in research work and editorial work that he could get more money eventually.

Of course I have not committed myself in any way with him, but have tried to get all of the facts possible for you and the council. He strikes me as a good man and if you want me to find out anything more let me know. His name and address is, Sydney P. Noe, Mrs. A. H. Chester, Union St., New Brunswick, N. J.

Very sincerely yours,

November 15. 1916.

Mr. Wm. B. Osgood Field

High Lawn House,

Lenox, Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:-

Your letter at hand enclosing a dollar and many thanks for the same. I probably will see Schulman to-day or to-morrow and I will speak to him about the French medals.

Absolutely no German medals can be brought over. I understand, several collectors, in order to be assured that they will obtain the medals that they desire, have ordered them now and Schulman is holding them in Holland until the war is over or the embargo is lifted.

Things are going along all right at the Society. Mr. Sewell has moved in from the country and is now up here about every day. Mr. Reilly has just gotten back and things will begin to hum with a new lease of life. Affection however will not be reached until the effect caused by your occasional presence here does its work.

Very truly yours,

March 1, 1917.

Mr. William B. Osgood Field
645 Fifth Avenue,
New York,
N. Y.

Dear Mr. Field:-

We learned only the other day when your sister was up here, that you have been sick. I am very sorry to know that you have been under the weather and trust that you will be out and around soon.

Things certainly have been doing up here the past eight or nine months. Bailey is up here every day and giving a large amount of time and thought towards the running and reconstructing of things. Newell is up here nearly every day and he has been as militant and full of ideas and action as possible. When you are about again and need some food for thought, come around and see us.

As you may know, various members, as individuals, bought the Johnson collection and we have been giving Mrs. Johnson small amounts of money every now and then as she has asked for it. Although there is some still left, it will not last forever. Mr. Johnson has been absolutely helpless and virtually out of his head for some months now. He is an absolute dead weight on Mrs. Johnson's hands and she is trying to get him into some hospital or home. As a matter of fact, being an incurable, it has been difficult to place him anywhere. The Society of course can take no action in this matter. The other day she asked me whether it would be all right to write to certain of our members and I told her to go ahead and do so as I could see no harm and one does not get anything nowadays without asking for it. I however, said that I did not really think that she could count on very much help as I don't know that any of our members are in a position to get Mr. Johnson in a home.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

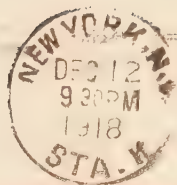
Dear Mr. Wood: -

Will you kindly send me a bill for the 20
medals sent Captain Field. I have only received me
for the silver.

Thanking you, Lam.

Yours very truly
Olin E. Peters

950 Park Ave. Field



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Howard Wood
American Numismatic Society
Rm 4 156 Street
New York N.Y.

December 13th, 1919.

Captain William F. Oxford Field,
545 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

2 Bronze medals commemorating the Aerial Crossing of the English Channel by King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians	- - - - -	\$10.00
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Received payment.

January 9, 1919
Carater.

November 23, 1919.

My dear Mr Field,

Your letter came the other day which was a poor substitute for not seeing you, however we are making the most of it.

I will try to get off to you tomorrow by express
the German medals There are 29 @ \$3.50 101.50

1 @ 6.00 6.00

1 @ 1.75 1.75

109.25

This lot includes one of each variety that Schulman turned over to me except what the Society took. If you want to keep them all fine work, if you want to return any please do so as soon as possible so I can return them to Schulman before he sails which will be about the middle of December. You can make out the check to me or to J.Schulman.

Yours very truly.

HIGH LAWN HOUSE
LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

November 25th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am enclosing you cheque for \$109.25
in payment for the medals which you have forwarded
to me.

I did not know Schulman was in this
country. I have been trying ever since the
Armistice was signed to have the original medals
which he sent me, and which were seized by the
British authorities, released, but no success.

I wish I could be of more personal
service to the Society than I am, but living as far
away as I do for six months of the year makes
it almost impossible for me to get about as I
should desire. I go to New York very seldom, and
only on business, returning as soon as possible.
However, the first of the year I expect to be in
the city and will try to make up for past defects.

Yours very truly



Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
156th Street Broadway
New York City N.Y.

December 1, 1919

Mr. William D. Osgood Field
High Lawn House
Lenox, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Field:

Your favor with cheque for \$109.25 at hand. Many thanks for this.

Although many letters sent in the first two years of the war, which have been held by the British authorities, have finally reached their destinations, as yet I have not heard of any packages coming over. Without knowing for a fact, I am inclined to think that some of the English public collections have been enriched by things seized during the war. If by any chance you do get your medals, let me know, as we have two invoices that suffered the same treatment as yours did.

Trusting to see you after the first of the year, I remain,

Very truly,

Curator.

SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

March 8th, 1920.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am writing to the State Department, Washington,
in case there are any impediments to the issuing of passports.

However, I do not believe you will have the
slightest trouble.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. H. Taft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Mr. Howland Wood



645 Fifth Ave.

March 19th 20

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for the
coins today.

Please go on
Mr. Wood want to see
me at any time.

Telephone to me
and I can be
home.

I hope my words
today did not

offend anyone.

Yours sincerely

W. Wood



340 Fifth Avenue

New York, April 1st, 1907.

Dear Mr. Cool:

It is just to remind you that I expect you
to dine with me Monday night, April first, at seven o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

My friend,

Anyhow, I shall be glad to

see you on the 1st.

March 18th, 1922

William Duguid Field, Esq.
645 Fifth Avenue, New York

Dear Mr. Field:

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
although, unlike the composer, did not follow
the copy out of the window. Mr. Hos is in the
Italian Consulate Service in China, and is a good
student of modern Chinese numismatics. He has
been very friendly with us for a number of years
and is setting out this corpus on his own hook.
It does not take much imagination to see that he
has stolen a march on someone by being first in
the field in things "sinicorum".

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

February 6th, 1923

William B. Osgood Field, Esq.
645 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Field:

You very kindly suggested that we might look into the matter of getting new flags, and we have received an estimate from The American Flag Company for two flags 4 ft by 6 ft, Std. Cool Bunting at \$5.40 (\$3.20 each). If this is satisfactory to you, may we have your permission to order same?

Appreciating very much your offer to replace the flags we now have, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

H./E

December 10th, 1924

William B. Osgood Field, Esq.
Lenox, Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:

You may not know that you are Chairman of the
Committee on the Award of the Huntington Medal. Mrs.
Brett and I are the other two members.

Last year no award was made. This year we should
make one. Mr. Newell, Mrs. Brett and I would like to
have it bestowed on Mr. Albert R. Frey. His chief nu-
mismatic works have been:

The Dated European Coinage, prior to 1501
The Dictionary of Numismatic Names
The Coinage of the First German, African and
Asiatic Companies,

besides several other articles which have appeared in
numismatic publications from the year 1902 to date.

There have been six awards of this Medal - the first
three to Americans; the second three to foreigners.

Edward T. Newell
Mrs. Agnes Baldwin Brett
Howland Wood

Jean N. Svoronos
Ernest Babelon
George F. Hill.

I should be glad to have your views with regard to this
matter, and I trust it may not be long before we see you again.

Very truly yours,

Curator



645 Fifth Avenue
New York, December 18th, 1924.

Dear Mr. Wood:

In answer to your letter of December
tenth:

I am perfectly in accord with your
bestowing the Huntington Medal on Mr. Albert R. Frey.

I trust that I shall see you early in
January when I return to New York and hope to find
everyone well and happy.

Very sincerely yours

High Lawn House
Lenox, Massachusetts

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society
Broadway 156th Street
New York City N.Y.

April 9th, 1925

William B. Osgood Field, Esq.
645 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Field:

Mr. Newell, I think, brought up at the Council meeting, the fact that several of our medals were coming up in the recent sale of B. Max Mehl, including, among others, the medal struck by the Society to commemorate the States entry into the Great War, which, I understand you would be interested in getting.

I am sending to the Council meeting on Friday, tomorrow, all the medals which we are getting in Mehl's sale, as I think that Council should have first choice of any we have for sale.

Very truly yours,

Curator



High Lawn House
Lenox, Massachusetts
December 4, 1925.

Dear Mr. Wood:

It is too bad that I am still
carried on the Committee for the award of the
Huntington Medal!

Anything that you and Mrs. Brett
decide naturally has my O.K. Living as I do
150 miles from New York makes it rather dif-
ficult for me to fill these positions.

From the information you give me,
my first choice for the award would be
George Macdonald.

With very kind regards, believe me

Yours very sincerely

Wm B. Goodfield

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society
Broadway 156th Street
New York N.Y.

Dictated by Mr. Field Dec. 3 but typed and signed in his
absence.

December 31st, 1925

William B. Osgood Field, Esq.
High Lawn
Lenox, Mass.

Dear Mr. Field:

If you have no objection, will you kindly sign the enclosed report, and return in time for the Annual Meeting on the 9th?

With every good wish for 1926,

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

5th December, 1927

Mr. William B. Osgood Field,
645 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Field:

As per usual, about this time of year the Huntington Medal Award Committee functions. Mrs. Brett and myself and the other members of the Committee met the other day informally. There seems to be a sentiment about to give the medal this year to Mr. Robert James Widlitz, on account of his book 'Medals and Medallions Relating to Architects' which came out at the beginning of this year.

It is a most excellent and scholarly production, taking years of collecting material and years of research to compile. The printing is a masterpiece. In case you have not seen the book, it is a folio of 190 pages, describing 1145 medals, with 124 photo-gelatine plates. We are fortunate in being able to make a comparison, as about the same time the Marquis of Milford-Haven issued a book of about the same size on Naval Medals. Mr. Widlitz's book is superior in every respect.

Trusting to see you before very long, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Curator



Lenox, Mass.,
Dec. 8, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Nothing could be nicer than having
Mr. Robert Eidlitz receive the medal
this year. I have seen his book and
find it to be very beautiful indeed.

With very kind regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Wm. B. Osgood Field

March 17, 1934.

Mr. William B. Osgood Field
645 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Mr. Field:

I have just received a note from Mr. Gillingham saying he had just received a letter from you making the query whether you had sent us a check for \$100.00, your pledge towards the purchase of the Eklund coins. You have not sent us the check and we did not write to you for it at the time as we heard you were in the hospital and we did not want to bother you with it then. I would be glad to receive it at your convenience as we are now receiving the coins from Mr. Eklund and are making payments. I trust your operation was successful. I went through just the same thing ten years ago.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



645 Fifth Avenue, New York
March 19, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway & 155th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am enclosing the check that should have gone long ago, but owing to the fact that I had a few rather personal things on my mind I am sure you will appreciate the cause of my lapse.

I have great sympathy for anybody who has been through the removal of the gall bladder. However, you, a little skinny fellow, probably did not have the excavating to do that they discovered on me, who is so darn thick that the comment of one of the doctors present was that all he saw were the soles of the feet of the operating surgeon. Well, they say I am picking up but it is a long and weary job. At the end of ten years are you well? - because at the end of six weeks I am not.

Yours very sincerely,

Wm. B. Osgood Field

March 21, 1934.

Mr. William B. Osgood Field
645 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Mr. Field:

Many thanks for the check.

As you have asked me about the result of my operation I will give you the low-down on it. I probably could not have gotten along without it. Since then I have been doing fairly well getting along with two missing parts - possibly not as well as a Ford card would have done. The operation was a success, and I have been troubled now and then with gastritis. I have to eat a little more carefully than I used to. Now and then I fall by the wayside and sometimes reap the consequences. A year ago I had another operation to clear up some adhesions.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator